The Double Patenting Rejection

In the Office action, claim 1 was provisionally rejected under the doctrine of double patenting over the claims of cited copending continuation application Serial No. 08/599,143. However, claim 1 of the present application has been cancelled and new claims 2-13 have been added. New claims 2-13 set forth various patentable features of applicants' invention not claimed in the cited copending continuation application. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al. U.S. Patent 5,559,548. However, the present application is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/599,143, filed February 9, 1996, which is a continuation of parent patent application Serial No. 08/234,060, filed April 28, 1994, now U.S. Patent 5,502,504. The present application is therefore entitled to the benefit of the April 28, 1994 filing date of the parent application. As a result, Davis et al. U.S. Patent 5,559,548 is not prior art to the present application. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.
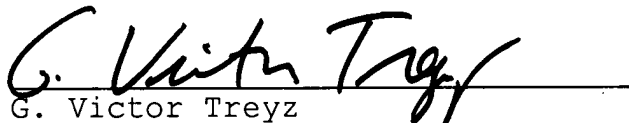
New Claims 2-13

New claims 2-13 set forth various patentable features of applicants' invention and are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Claims 2-13 are in condition for allowance. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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